

C.F.R. § 966.4, the housing authority may bring an action under Article 7 of Chapter 42 of the General Statutes."

Section 2. G.S. 1-112 reads as rewritten:

"§ 1-112. Defense without bond.

(a) The undertaking prescribed in ~~the preceding section~~ G.S. 1-111 is not necessary if an attorney practicing in the court where the action is pending certifies to the court in writing that he has examined the case of the defendant and is of the opinion that the plaintiff is not entitled to recover; and if the defendant also files an affidavit stating that he is unable to give and is not worth the amount of the undertaking in any property whatsoever.

(b) An undertaking shall not be required in any summary ejection action brought pursuant to Articles 3 or 7 of Chapter 42 of the General Statutes."

Section 3. This act becomes effective October 1, 1997, and applies to acts committed on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 21st day of August, 1997.

Became law upon approval of the Governor at 11:54 a.m. on the 2nd day of September, 1997.

S.B. 455

CHAPTER 474

AN ACT TO IMPROVE HMO SERVICES BY PROTECTING PHYSICIAN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING TREATMENT, REQUIRING COVERAGE FOR EMERGENCY CARE, REDUCING THE APPROVAL PERIOD FOR RATE FILINGS, AND PROMOTING COLLABORATION BETWEEN HMOS AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Article 3 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new section to read:

"§ 58-3-176. Treatment discussions not limited.

(a) An insurer shall not limit either of the following:

(1) The participating plan provider's ability to discuss with an enrollee the clinical treatment options medically available, the risks associated with the treatments, or a recommended course of treatment.

(2) The participating plan provider's professional obligations to patients as specified under the provider's professional license.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to expand or revise the scope of benefits covered by a health benefit plan.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) 'Health benefit plan' means any of the following if written by an insurer: an accident and health insurance policy or certificate; a nonprofit hospital or medical service corporation contract; a health maintenance organization subscriber contract; or a plan provided by a multiple employer welfare arrangement. 'Health benefit plan' does not mean any plan implemented or administered through the